



Indiana State Department of Health

Epidemiology Resource Center

Quick Facts

About...Gonorrhea

What is gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). You can get it from having sex (vaginal, anal or oral) with someone who has gonorrhea. It can be cured with the right medicine.

How is gonorrhea spread?

Gonorrhea is a serious disease. You can get it from having sex (vaginal, anal or oral) with someone who has gonorrhea. If you don't get treated, it can spread in your body. Both men and women may not be able to have children. If you are pregnant, your baby can be born sick with gonorrhea.

Who is at risk for gonorrhea?

Anyone who is sexually active can get gonorrhea. You can get it from having sex (vaginal, anal or oral) with someone who has gonorrhea. It is more common among teens and young adults.

How do I know if I have gonorrhea?

Go to a clinic or a doctor right away to get checked. If you have been exposed to someone with gonorrhea or you have symptoms that match those described below, your doctor may test you for gonorrhea.

What are the symptoms of gonorrhea?

Symptoms may include a white, yellow or green drip from your penis, vagina or anus. It may also burn or hurt to pee. Women may also feel pain in the lower belly. You may have these signs two days to a few weeks after sex with someone who has gonorrhea. Many people with gonorrhea don't have any of these signs. They

don't know they are sick. But they can still give gonorrhea to anyone they have sex with.

How is gonorrhea treated?

If you have gonorrhea, you will be given medicine at the clinic. Tell your sex partner(s) that they may have gonorrhea and need to get checked. Don't have sex until both you and your partner(s) are treated.

How can gonorrhea be prevented?

Abstinence (not having sex) is the best way to protect yourself from STDs and HIV/AIDS. If you have sex, using a latex condom (rubber) is the best way to protect yourself from STDs. Limit your number of sex partners. The more people you have sex with, the greater your chance of getting an STD. If you have sex with more than one partner, get an STD exam every 6 months.

All information presented is intended for public use. For more information and clinic locations call the National STD/HIV InfoLine at 1-800-CDC-INFO.

This page was last reviewed July 20, 2015.